

needed to that office, very naturally turned to their own account. The mass slowly the blunts of persecution had blown, the tighter had the gospel cloak been grasped, but the sun of court favour, shining so suddenly and intensely, caused many to cast aside their only protecting garment, and to take up lighter and gaudier vestures of pagan weaving. There is ample historical evidence to prove, that to accommodate the crowds of pagans who became nominal converts to Christianity, its pure ritual was corrupted by pagan addenda. Surrounded by all the machinery of temple worship, breathing an atmosphere of priestcraft, and envious of the pomp surrounding the priests, and the immense influence they exercised over the people, the rulers of the Christian community were subjected to a perpetual temptation to materialise the spiritual nature of their religion; and as their longings for power could only be gratified by the institution of a material sacrifice, these aspirations soon gave a colouring to their language in speaking of the Lord's Supper; and an accumulation of false precedents was thus gradually formed, which led ultimately to a change as great in the views of the Church relating to it as in the arrangements of the material churches in which the rite was celebrated. A material priest, without a material sacrifice, was of course a transparent absurdity to the ancients. It was in fact a common reproach made by the heathen to the Christians, that these latter could have no religion as they had no altars, a reproach to which the Christians meekly replied, "*Delubra et aras non habemus*," altars and shrines we have none: and no vestige or resemblance to such things existed in their churches; and centuries elapsed ere the accommodation in the language of some of the fathers to pagan prejudices, or the whisperings of ambition, led to the practical change in the churches of wooden tables to stone altars.

There is no doubt that the corrupt and sensual practices of the laity rendered them worthy of being punished by deprivation of their rights for the time; but it so happened that these deprivations, once made, were never restored, and the clergy having got the sole power of making the law, invariably turned it to their own advantage. Thus on one pretence or the other, the people were deprived of the right of electing their clerical officers: after the bishops thought proper to leave their seats at the extreme end of the room, and to come forward into the church, the communion-table appears to have been placed behind the bishop, instead of as heretofore always before him, and as common seats became changed into gorgeous "thrones," the people were gradually shut out of the sight of this table, which ultimately became in fact a stone altar, as the fathers had gradually in their writings accustomed themselves theoretically to call it. But the old Basilican churches would not accommodate themselves very readily to these important changes, and the work which has been erected in them, to make the requisite alterations, has no connection with the old structures, forms no part of the ancient construction, and is nothing but a barefaced intrusion. In the countries, however, of new converts, remote from Rome, where no ancient architectural precedents existed to control the builders, their changed views of Christianity produced their natural effect, and the structures therefore erected from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries exhibit, in their plans, not in their styles, with which creeds never had any influence, the progressive development of popery. Even in the churches in this country, which are comparatively so modern, may be traced, the gradual rise of transubstantiation, by the increase in the length of chancels, in the addition to them of screens, which ultimately became, in the later churches, instead of being mere after-thoughts, part of the original construction, and in the invention of credence tables, squints, lychoscopes, hagioscopes, &c., through which the condescending priests graciously permitted the besotted laity to take squints at what was going on in the "holy sanctuary,"—all features that had no existence in any "ancient" church, and are

very unaccountable omissions in them, if transubstantiation be true.

If your readers wish to see a specimen of the way in which the old Basilican churches have been altered to suit papal views, let them look at the plate given by Letarouilly, in his magnificent work, "*Les Edifices de Rome Moderne*," of the church of Santa Agnese, without the walls, and read the remark he incidentally makes relating to it, viz., that in some recent repairs, on scraping off the plastering, it was discovered that all the side chapels were "ADDITIONS." The plate shows this also; and it also shows that the old seat of the president still exists in it, as Cardinal Wiseman truly says, *but the seat is perfectly useless now*, for it is carefully shut out from view by the "alter," with its surrounding screens and the modern "thrones" in advance of these. Will Cardinal Wiseman dare to recommend at Rome the resumed use of these ancient seats, which Rome, unluckily for her, has "preserved," but never uses? I know he dare not do this, because if these ancient churches were occupied, as those who built them intended they should be, down go all the screens and up go the old rights of the people.

I am prepared to stake all I have in the world, my very existence, if need be, on this fact, that if any really ancient church can be produced, containing anything in it to favour those views in which Papists differ from us Protestants, then those portions will prove, on strict examination, to be modern additions to the original construction.

I said, that all the reformers were with me on this question: this is proved from the fact that they ordered all the screens and stone altars to be taken down, and that the communion should be celebrated on "a moveable wooden table," which was to be brought out of the chancel into the nave.

If Mr. Pugin feels disposed to contest these points with me, I will meet him at any time before the Institute: there are plates enough, I imagine, in the library there, of old churches, to enable me, by their aid, to map out for him the progressive steps of those corrupt changes in his church to which I have alluded.\*

JOHN ELLIOTT.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE new church of St. James, Woolton, near Belvoir Castle, built chiefly by the Duke of Rutland, Lord John Manners, M.P., and other members of his grace's family, has been farther beautified by the recent insertion of several painted windows. Much, if not all, of the old English lettering, and one compartment of one of the principal windows has been done entirely by Lady Adeliza Norman.

An earnest effort is being made to accomplish the same good work of restoration for the round church at Little Maplestead which has been effected for the like venerable relics of olden days at the Temple, and in Cambridge. The object is to be carried out by subscription, for which advertisements have been issued. On Monday in last week the Norwich model school for boys was formally re-opened, the school-room having been greatly enlarged, so as to accommodate about 100 more boys. Improved arrangements for warming and ventilation have also been introduced. The enlarged room has a front in the Tudor style, from a design by Mr. Brown, architect. The building is 87 feet in length, 29 feet wide, and 23 feet in height from the floor to the roof. The classroom is 30 feet in length and 16 feet in width. There is now accommodation for 300. Messrs. Lucas, brothers, having taken the contract for the Norwich Waterworks, they have been lately commenced, and shortly about 300 men will be employed on them. The plan and extent of the works are such, that when completed, the whole city and the hamlets will be supplied with water by its own pressure, and there may be a tap in every house and cottage with the water always on. Thus the foundation will be laid for other sanitary improvements. The works will be constructed so as to be adapted for the best system

\* This matter is more theological than civil our pages. Any continuation of it must be confined to its architectural features.—Ed.

of drainage, and so that water may be made to flush sewers, if required, to cleanse the streets, to extinguish fires, &c.—The new church in the Villa of St. Gregory, Canterbury, is rapidly progressing towards completion, the whole edifice being roofed, the plastering finished, with the steps, and other parts of the interior. The arch which divides the chancel from the nave, on which the turret is built, is intended to contain three bells. The edifice is expected to be completed early in the summer.—The church and parsonage of St. Andrew, Buckland, by Dover, are being restored and altered under the superintendence of Mr. F. R. Wilson, architect. The church has a western triplet,—a peculiarity of which there are but few instances.—The committee at Fisherton Anger, for promoting the erection of a new church in the extensive suburb of Fisherton having proposed to erect a new church, a subscription was headed by the Bishop of Salisbury with 100*l.*, Dean and Chapter 80*l.*, and Mr. F. T. Egerton, 150*l.* The amount already subscribed is about 1,300*l.* This sum, however, will not be sufficient to pay the costs of erecting the church, viz., 3,000*l.*—The repairs and restorations in Wells Cathedral are fast progressing; additional workmen having lately been put to work. The Dean and Chapter have been examining the state of the sculptured statues in the west front, to ascertain if any of them are in an insecure state.—About 200*l.* more will complete the fund required for the erection of schools in St. Jude's district, Bristol, with the aid of the Privy Council and the National Society, conditional on the making up of the sum stated.—A numerous and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Clifton has been held to memorialise the Bristol town council for the establishment of a market in that parish. The committee of the Improvement Association have received an offer of an eligible site for 2,000*l.*, and plans have been received from some of the first architects in Bristol, engaged to procure contracts for the erection of their designs at a cost not exceeding 3,000*l.*—The corporation of Warrington have purchased the market-tolls from the lord of the manor, as a first step towards the erection of a covered market in the town.—Funds are being raised by the Rev. H. Mayle to erect schools in All Saints' Parish, Liverpool. Mr. Edmund Molyneux has presented 100*l.* towards the undertaking.—St. Marie's Catholic church, erected about nine or ten years ago from designs by Mr. Pugin, says a Liverpool paper, is found, like all the other places of worship here, to be too small for the increasing population and growing importance of the town. It has therefore been decided upon that an immediate enlargement shall take place, and in order that the general style and character of the building shall be preserved, Mr. Pugin has been to Southport and prepared plans for the work. A liberal subscription has been made. The "old church" at Southport is undergoing repairs to the extent of nearly 1,000*l.*—An enlargement of the Corn Exchange, is Brunswick-street, Liverpool, is now in progress, by the addition to the Exchange of the site of a large warehouse.—The Liverpool Health Committee have resolved to enlarge the corporation baths at the George's pier. Mr. Newlands, the borough engineer, designs to erect four distinct plunge baths—two for ladies and two for gentlemen—of the most capacious dimensions, besides private plunge and other baths, all to be supplied by salt water: by taking in a slip to the north of the baths, a supply of salt water will not only be got for the other corporation baths in different parts of the town, but for hotel keepers and private individuals also. The whole of this can be done at an expense, according to the estimate, of something less than 10,000*l.*—The chancel of St. Peter's Church, Derby, is about to be restored, under the superintendence of Mr. Gordon Place, of Nottingham, architect. The cost of the restoration will be about 250*l.*, already promised by private subscription.—Messrs. Weightman and Hasfield of Sheffield, architects, have been employed to plan and lay out the site for the erection of a Roman Catholic chapel, priest's